

February 3, 2024

The Editor, Bloomberg

Dear Editor,

We are disappointed by the misleading reporting in the article “Hong Kong \$18 Billion Airport Upgrade Hit by Over Year Delay” (February 2).

Airport Authority Hong Kong (AAHK) has been taking forward the Three-Runway System (3RS) in accordance with its original schedule to complete the 3RS in 2024. There is no delay and the alleged ‘delay’ carried in your report is unfounded.

We are also appalled by your distorted highlight of our “no comment” remark in the first version of your report. It is only normal for reporter to allow respondent time to assemble facts and information before replying. We are most disappointed that your agency just gave us two hours to respond and even go ahead with the publishing without our comment, resulting in a slanted and prejudiced report. This is grossly unprofessional and falls short of what is expected from a reputable media agency.

The 3RS project includes construction of the Third Runway, expansion of the Terminal 2 (T2), construction of the T2 Concourse, reconfiguration of the Centre Runway, and the construction and installation of related infrastructure and systems. With various programme control and enhancement measures in place during the pandemic, works of the 3RS project progress steadily on all fronts as planned. The new Third Runway has already been commissioned in November 2022 as scheduled, while the reconfiguration of the Centre runway is underway as planned.

Your report is confusing in the least regarding the progress of the Centre Runway. While at one point it is suggested that all three runways ‘aren’t now planned to be operational in 2025’, your report mentioned in another line the Centre Runway is ‘currently on track for completion, certification, and testing by the fourth quarter of this year’. It should be noted AAHK has publicly reported that before the end of 2024 all three runways will be put into operation, and it remains the target to do so.

While it is the target to complete the 3RS passenger facilities in 2024, AAHK will take into account the actual passenger demand in rolling out the commissioning of passenger facilities such as the expanded T2 and T2 Concourse. Passenger traffic at Hong Kong International Airport (HKIA) has recovered to about 80% of the pre-pandemic level and is expected to fully recover to the pre-pandemic level by the end of 2024, which remains within the capacity of the existing facilities of Terminal 1.

We look forward to your agency’s professional support in disseminating factual updates on our 3RS project in the future.

Lam Sai-hung
Secretary for Transport and Logistics
The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region